

November 8, 2005  
 Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
 Regular Meeting  
 Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 8, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Randy Markl, Jason Purrington, Bob Haken, Ron Gregg, Michelle Legatt, Tom Jackson, Ray Genrich, Gale Bondhus, Craig Myers, Nestor Palm and Jack Kelly. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2005 meeting as amended.

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DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor Randy Markl met with the board to seek approval for the DNR to purchase approximately 33 acres, from the Violet Anderson family, described as Government Lot 3 in Section 10, Dale Township. This property will become a State Wildlife Management Area and will be open to public hunting. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow the DNR to purchase this property in Dale Township.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve November warrants as follows:

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| County Revenue Fund      | \$ 76,063.55        |
| Road and Bridge Fund     | \$ 31.20            |
| Long Term Capital Outlay | \$ 25,121.66        |
| Human Services Fund      | \$ 514.90           |
| County Building Fund     | \$ 1,617.97         |
| Ditch Fund               | \$ 21,355.56        |
| Agency Fund              | \$ 250.00           |
| Road & Bridge Fund       | \$ 58,595.50        |
| Waste Abatement/SCORE    | \$ 8,516.27         |
| Landfill Enterprise Fund | <u>\$ 12,772.50</u> |
| TOTAL                    | \$204,839.11        |

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the county calling cards that were recently deactivated. The board decided that they are not going to reissue calling cards at this time.

\* \* \* \*

Brief discussion was held in regards to upcoming payroll changes for those employees that are currently being paid monthly. Beginning in January, time cards will be due at the end of the business day on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the last day

of the month. If the 15<sup>th</sup> or the last day of the month falls on a weekend, time cards will be due on Friday. Paychecks will be received four business days after payroll is submitted. A calendar will be sent out with the November paychecks.

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Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. He reported that the engine went out in the spare car that is used by the jailers for transporting inmates to court as needed and for attending out-of-town training sessions. The board instructed Purrington to check with the state or some of the used car lots to see if they have any used cars available.

Discussion was held in regards to the salary that Purrington will receive when his duties as Interim Sheriff begin January 1<sup>st</sup>. Purrington asked that he be paid the same salary as what Sheriff Haken is currently being paid as he is not planning to hire a Chief Deputy. He stated that he is hoping to hire a part-time deputy that can be used on an as-needed basis. A decision in regards to the salary will be discussed at a later date when the board sets all other salaries.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported that the current county application form has recently been revised and he wanted the board to be able to see a draft copy before bringing it to the Labor-Management Committee for their input. A new application form will be adopted in the near future.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. He reported that an exit interview was recently conducted with Bonnie Willard and she requested that the board review her exit interview questionnaire.

Gregg reported that he recently proposed a change to the language in the Solid Waste Union Contract and the reply was that the union would not be in favor of changing the current language. Gregg will begin working on the creation of a new position and will work with the union to have something added to the current contract in regards to this position.

Brief discussion was held in regards to the current fee schedule at the landfill. The fee schedule will be reviewed to see if fees should be assessed for some of the services that are currently being provided at no charge.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to advertise for bids to repair transit garage roof and to set the deadline for December 9<sup>th</sup>. Two different options (repair of existing roof or replacement of existing roof) will be considered.

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Michelle Legatt, Tom Jackson, and Ray Genrich from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office met with the board to give an update in regards to the soil surveys. They reported that everything is going well and that the soil survey revision is on schedule and should be completed by the winter of 2007.

Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board to discuss the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Challenge that has recently been proposed by the Salvation Army Representative, Cindy Harrington. They would like to challenge all county employees to form a team of approximately 3 people and to help ring the bell as all money collected stays in Cottonwood County. A traveling trophy will be awarded to the team that collects the most money.

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Nestor Palm and Jack Kelly met with the board representing the Big Bend Snow Riders Club. They requested that the board again consider that the county loan the club \$10,000 to provide funding for trail grooming throughout the winter. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to advance \$10,000 to the Big Bend Snow Riders Club with the loan to be repayable next summer upon receipt of their grant.

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Commissioner Kuecker handed out information that was put together in regards to 2005 Commissioner salaries and per diems. The counties that are being compared to are the 14 peer counties that have previously been identified.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant